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SEP 15 2004

# Fax

To: Stephen M. Hepperle  
USPTO/GAU 3753

From: Clifford Perry  
US Pat. Atty

Fax: (703) 872-9306

Pages: Cover + 8

Phone:

Date: September 14, 2004

Re: 10/616,891

cc:

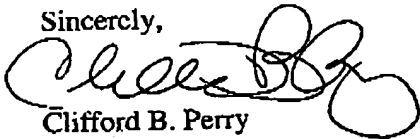
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Ex. Hepperle:

Thank you for your call today regarding the granting of the petition to make special, and your anticipated consideration of the application next week. As mentioned by voicemail, I have mailed copy of the IPER received on the corresponding PCT application to you. As I am not sure if you will receive it before next week, I now provide a faxed copy of that report.

I will be returning to Munich, Germany at the conclusion of this week, but should any questions arise please feel free to e-mail me at [cperry@perryiplaw.com](mailto:cperry@perryiplaw.com) indicating the date and time when a return phone call to you would be most convenient.

Sincerely,




Clifford B. Perry  
Attorney for Applicant

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope with sufficient postage addressed to:

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria VA, 22313-1450

**PATENT**  
Docket No.: SWS-002 US

On 9 Sept 2004  
By:   
Clifford B. Perry, Reg. No. 43,854

**THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No. : 10/616,891  
Applicants : Aylward et al.  
Filed : July 9, 2003  
Art Unit : 3753  
Examiner : S.M. Hepperle

Docket No. : SWS-002 US  
Customer No. : 30499  
Confirm No. : 1686

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Citation of IPER **RECEIVED**  
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SEP 15 2004

Dear Examiner Hepperle:

Applicants herewith attach a copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report issued for the present application. The opinion was drawn up in view of the Davenport reference noted in an earlier provided Information Disclosure Statement. The Davenport reference and similar argumentation distinguishing the present invention thereover were filed in the Information Disclosure Statement of June 21, 2004.

For the reasons provided earlier, the Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and a notice to such effect is requested. If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this case or if any questions arise, the Examiner is invited to e-mail the Applicants' representative, Clifford Perry, at [cperry@perryiplaw.com](mailto:cperry@perryiplaw.com) indicating the date and time when a return phone call discussing the case would be most convenient.

**BEST AVAILABLE COPY**

Application No.: 10/616,891  
Citation of IPER

PATENT  
Page 2 of 2

Respectfully submitted on behalf of  
the Applicants,



Clifford B. Perry  
Reg. No. 43,854  
Attorney for Applicants